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**HB1068 Environmental Health Specialist and On-Site Sewage Disposal  
Systems – Transfer of Responsibilities and Standards, Regulation,  
Applications and Plans  
Environment and Transportation**

**March 2, 2022**

**Mathew Geckle**

**Back River Precast**

**Position: Favorable**

As an On-site Wastewater professional, I appreciate the Vice Chair's efforts to improve this industry both in timeliness and effectiveness. I want to focus quickly on mostly on the importance of the database.

We particularly support this requirement for a database to log in septic system permit progress and would support adding a workgroup to determine the best way to get Maryland and local jurisdictions into this century with a comprehensive data base on septic systems like other states have. We would not have to reinvent the wheel but learn from places like Florida who have created effective data bases.

Not only will this system help applicants better know their permit progress, but it will also give us better data on why applicants were denied and the kind of permits being sought. All information now that is hard to gather.

We also agree that local county environmental health officers can do more to communicate effectively about the status of permits for a septic system repair, replacement or for a whole new unit. This communication is critical to be able to properly plan for even a simple project.

We do recommend adding to Page 2 line 23 – 26 that the local environmental health department also provide the applicant ways to remedy the reasons for permit denial if appropriate.

This bill is a nice companion to HB 318 you heard earlier this session that sets up a new licensing board for the septic system industry with appropriate standards and accountability. This bill is asking the local departments to invest in better communication and permit tracking to help the permit process be better and more predictable. Together these two bills will make a significant improvement in this industry.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify today and urge a favorable report.

